

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 DOTE-00 HUD-01

NASA-01 NSF-01 IO-13 FEA-01 /038 W

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R 200950Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3890

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH GR

SUBJ: NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

REF A. STATE A-99 B. ATHENS 424

1. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF A, WHICH INSTRUCTED THAT EMBASSY CITE C-S1-5-59578 IN REPLY, FOLLOW.

2. INFORMATION KEYED TO PARA 4, REF A - GAEC CURRENTLY UNDER GENERAL SUPERVISION OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE, BUT HAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AUTONOMY. MINISTRY OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GREEK ENERGY POLICY, WITH NATURAL ENERGY BOARD ITS KEY ADVISORY BODY. GAEC CHAIRMAN ZERVAS HAS RECENTLY RESIGNED, AND A SUCCESSOR HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED. POSITION OF SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR IS ALSO VACANT. AS INDICATED ABOVE MINISTRY OF COORDINATION HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY IN ENERGY MATTERS, AND HAS STRONG INTEREST IN PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM. COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION ON FUTURE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM IS GOOD, WITHIN LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY SIZE AND TRAINING OF GAEC PERSONNEL. REF B PROVIDES RECENT REVIEW OF GREEK ENERGY RESEARCH BUDGET AND ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO GAEC OFFICIALS, PRACTICALLY ALL MEANINGFUL NUCLEAR RESEARCH IN GREECE IS BEING CONDUCTED AT OR THROUGH DEMOCRITOS.

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3. INFORMATION KEYED TO PARA 5, REF A. - EMBASSY WILL

FORWARD AN ORGANIZATION CHART OF DEMOCRITOS BY AIRPOUCH.  
DEMOCRITOS PRESENTLY HAS A BUDGET OF \$10 MILLION,  
WITH RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF  
FIELDS - AGRONOMY, BIOLOGY, HYDROLOGY, HEALTH, PHYSICS,  
ET. AL. ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET GOES FOR NUCLEAR  
RESEARCH, MOST OF WHICH FOCUSES ON PURE RESEARCH RATHER  
THAN TECHNOLOGICALLY OR PRACTICALLY ORIENTED WORK.  
ABOUT \$800,000 IS BUDGETED FOR THE DEMOCRITOS-UNDP  
URANIUM EXPLORATION PROJECT IN NORTHERN GREECE.  
(SEE PARA 5 OF THIS MESSAGE.) EXPANSION IS UNCERTAIN  
AT THE PRESENT TIME, SINCE KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS  
ARE VACANT. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF A CONSIDERABLE  
ENLARGEMENT TO ENABLE THE GAEC TO PREPARE PROPERLY  
FOR THE PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION'S (PPC) FIRST  
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. THE PROGRAM HAS NOT YET RECEIVED  
OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION, BUT THE PPC HAS SIGNED A  
CONDITIONAL ENRICHMENT AGREEMENT WITH ERDA, AND IS UN-  
OFFICIALLY PLANNING TO PUT ITS FIRST NUCLEAR UNIT INTO  
OPERATION IN 1986. GAEC WILL BE CHARGED WITH LICENSING  
AUTHORITY, AND WITH THE FORMULATION AND APPLICATION OF  
HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS, A ROLE IT WOULD NOT BE  
ABLE TO PERFORM WITH ITS LIMITED CURRENT STAFF. NO SUCH  
EXPANSION COULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
OF THE GOG. WITH RESPECT TO MORALE AT DEMOCRITOS,  
THERE HAS BEEN SOME FRICTION BETWEEN YOUNGER, OVERSEAS  
TRAINED SCIENTISTS AND THEIR OLDER, GREEK TRAINED  
COLLEAGUES. IN FACT, DEMOCRITOS HAS EXPERIENCED  
DIFFICULTIES IN ATTRACTING OR KEEPING FIRST RATE  
SCIENTISTS WITH OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE. THE CENTER HAS  
LACKED DIRECTION TO SOME DEGREE, PERHAPS PARTIALLY  
BECAUSE THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE HAS TENDED  
TO EMPHASIZE THE FORMER RATHER THAN THE LATTER. WE ARE  
NOT AWARE OF ANY RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON PERSONNEL DUE TO  
POLITICAL OR BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS, BUT IT IS OUR IM-  
PRESSION THAT FOREIGN CONTACTS HAVE BEEN VERY LARGELY  
WESTERN ORIENTED. GAEC PARTICIPATES IN PROGRAM OF  
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, CEAN - EUROPEAN NUCLEAR  
PHYSICS GROUP, OECD'S NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY, NATO CCMS  
SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM. GREECE HAS AGREEMENT CONCERNING  
CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY DATING TO AUGUST, 1955, AND,  
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OF COURSE, RECEIVED THE FUEL FOR DEMOCRITOS FROM THE US.

4. INFORMATION KEYED TO PARA 6, REF A. - EMBASSY HAS  
UNDER PREPARATION FOR EARLY SUBMISSION REVIEW OF  
ENERGY SECTOR WHICH WILL INCLUDE EXAMINATION OF NUCLEAR  
POWER PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD.

5. INFORMATION KEYED TO PARA 7. - THE DEMOCRITOS-NATIONAL

INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESEARCH - IAEA - UNDP  
PROGRAM TO LOCATE AND DEFINE AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT  
URANIUM POTENTIAL IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN MACEDONIA AND  
THRACE, WHICH BEGAN IN 1971, HAS BEEN EXTENDED THROUGH  
THE END OF 1976. NO ECONOMICALLY EXPLOITABLE URANIUM  
DEPOSITS HAVE YET BEEN LOCATED, BUT SEVERAL PROMISING  
AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.  
A MORE DETAILED OUTLINE OF RESULTS, SUPPLIED BY  
LOCAL UNDP OFFICIALS, FOLLOWS BY AIRPOUCH. STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

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